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Economic and Social Council

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Commission for Social Development
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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups: World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond

Azerbaijan,* Colombia,* Indonesia, Kenya,* Mali, Morocco,* Nigeria,* Senegal, Sierra Leone* and Sudan:* draft resolution

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Promoting youth employment

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the resolve of Heads of State and Government, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, and, as contained in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people, a central objective of their relevant national and international policies as well as their national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling and reaffirming the commitments relating to youth employment made at the major United Nations conferences and summits since 1990 and their follow-up processes,

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

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Recalling General Assembly resolution 54/120 of 17 December 1999, in which the Assembly took note with appreciation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998,[3] which set forth important commitments regarding youth employment, and recalling also Assembly resolutions 56/117 of 19 December 2001 and 57/165 of 18 December 2002,

Recognizing that young people are an asset for sustainable economic growth and social development, and expressing deep concern about the magnitude and disproportionate effect upon youth of unemployment and underemployment throughout the world and its profound implications for the future of our societies,

Recognizing also that Governments have a primary responsibility to educate young people, to encourage them to seek training so as to increase their employability and to create an enabling environment that will promote youth employment,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the global analysis and evaluation of national action plans on youth employment;[4]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Economic Commission for Africa entitled *Economic Report on Africa, 2005: Meeting the Challenges of Unemployment and Poverty in Africa*;[5]

3. *Encourages* Governments that have prepared national reviews and action plans on youth employment to move forward to implementation, and Governments that have not yet prepared their reviews, national action plans, or progress reports to do so as soon as possible;

4. *Also encourages* Governments to develop their national action plans through collaboration among government, representative youth organizations, employers' and workers' organizations and civil society, and to promote partnerships among public authorities, the private sector, educational institutions and civil society, and to integrate these action plans into their broader national development programmes, including poverty reduction strategy documents where they exist, to create methodology to evaluate these plans and strategies and to prioritize therein the necessary resources for implementation of these plans;

5. *Further encourages* Governments to devise and employ new policy-oriented indicators to monitor and evaluate progress on implementing their national action plans, and invites the Youth Employment Network to coordinate the work of its core partners to establish an improved indicator that takes into account not only those young people in open unemployment, but also those who are in education, who are underemployed, who are working in the informal economy or who may have dropped out of the labour market altogether;

6. *Urges* Governments to consider youth employment as integral to their overall strategies for development and collective security, and within this context to give renewed attention to the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] commitment concerning decent and productive work for young people as key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

[3] See WCMRY/1998/28, chap. I, resolution 1.
[4] A/60/133.
[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.K.9.

7. *Renews* the invitation contained in General Assembly resolutions 57/165 of 18 December 2002 and 58/133 of 22 December 2003 to the International Labour Organization, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the World Bank and other relevant specialized agencies, and within the framework of the Youth Employment Network, to assist and support, upon request, the efforts of Governments in the elaboration and implementation of national reviews and action plans;

8. *Encourages* Governments to facilitate interaction among educational institutions, and the public and private sectors to prevent unemployment and the low returns on investment in training that result from a skills mismatch, and in this regard, calls for technical support from relevant United Nations organizations and the international community for national and regional programmes such as the New Partnership in Africa's Development[6] and other regional economic groups so as to facilitate public-private integration;

9. *Invites* new countries and partner organizations to join the Youth Employment Network and encourages the lead countries to strengthen the work of the Network as a peer exchange, support and review mechanism, and in support of the further development of this mechanism, invites the International Labour Organization in close cooperation with the World Bank and the Secretariat, within the framework of the Youth Employment Network, to undertake regular updates of the global analysis and evaluation of progress made in the development and implementation of national reviews and action plans on youth employment;

10. *Recommends* that the Youth Consultative Group of the Youth Employment Network be strengthened so that, in addition to its overall advisory role, there can be a more active role played at the country level by its constituent youth organizations in supporting the development and implementation of national action plans;

11. *Encourages* Governments to promote the participation of their national youth organizations in supporting the development and implementation of their national action plans on youth employment;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the provision by some Member States of expertise and financial resources to support the activities of the Youth Employment Network, and invites all Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Network in support of action taken at the country level within the framework of the Network;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2007 a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including progress achieved by the Youth Employment Network.

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[6] A/57/304, annex.